



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 17, 2002

Tim Kirschbaum, Environmental Engineer
Consolidation Coal Company
P.O. Box 566
Sesser, Illinois 62884

Re: Abandonment of Equipment in Underground Mines, Consolidation Coal Company, Emery Deep Mine, C/015/015, Outgoing File

Dear Mr. Kirschbaum:

Recent correspondence and discussions with Consolidation Coal Company personnel, lead us to believe that portions of the Emery Deep mine are planned to be permanently sealed in the near future. An issue of concern that often occurs during a mine closure is the abandonment of equipment and machinery at the soon to be sealed mine. Abandonment of Mining Machinery must be authorized by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in accordance with the following regulations found in the 301 section of the R645 rules:

747.100. Non coal mine waste, including but not limited to grease, lubricants, paints, flammable liquids, garbage, machinery, lumber and other combustible materials generated during coal mining and reclamation operations will be placed and stored in a controlled manner in a designated portion of the permit area or state-approved solid waste disposal area.

747.200. Placement and storage of Non coal mine waste within the permit area will ensure that leachate and surface runoff do not degrade surface or ground water.

747.300. Final disposal of Non coal mine waste within the permit area will ensure that leachate and drainage does not degrade surface or underground water.

*750. Performance Standards.
All coal mining and reclamation operations will be conducted to minimize disturbance to the Hydrologic balance within the permit and adjacent areas, to prevent material damage to the Hydrologic balance outside the permit area and support approved postmining land uses in accordance with the terms and conditions of the approved permit and the performance standards of R645-301 and R645-302.*

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Abandonment of Equipment

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Although we encourage the removal of all equipment from the mine when possible and safe to do so, the Division understands that some machinery or equipment may need to be left. This must be reported to the Division.

Thus, prior to final abandonment, Division approval must first be obtained through the amendment process. You must provide the following documentation in accordance with the above-cited regulations to be incorporated as an amendment into the respective Mining and Reclamation Plan.

1. A map designating the final disposal location of the abandoned mining machinery.
2. A description of the equipment or machinery being abandoned and its condition upon abandonment. Full disclosure of any contaminating fluids or hazardous or toxic materials must be made.
3. A revision to the Probably Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) document which discusses the abandonment of the mining machinery and describes the potential for any Hydrologic impacts as a result of the abandonment.

This information should assist you in complying with the regulatory requirements. Your prompt response is appreciated. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Daron R. Haddock
Permit Supervisor

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cc:

Mary Ann Wright
Pat Gubbins, BLM

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